

# The Tucumcari News

Volume 2, No. 11

TUCUMCARI, NEW MEXICO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29 1906.

Subscription \$1.00 a year.

## MARSHAL LAWSON KILLED BY CONSTABLE HARDWICK

City In Mourning Over Horrible Incident—All Business Suspended For Funeral.

What terminated in one of the most deplorable tragedies in the history of our city occurred at the Legal Tender corner Wednesday at about 11 o'clock when Constable Sam W. Hardwick shot and mortally wounded City Marshal John M. Lawson.

These officers had had some difficulty regarding arrests they had made on Christmas night and from the most reliable information we can get, Hardwick, while drinking heavily, followed Lawson up on Wednesday morning and demanded further explanations and became abusive, as the argument was extended. Lawson declared that he could not take further abuse from Hardwick and drew his pistol, at the same time saying he was ready to settle the matter.

They were prevented from fighting by friends, who immediately interfered, and Justice of the Peace Jas. Lawson, the Marshal's brother, held him and Sheriff J. A. Street took Hardwick outside, and was promised by Hardwick that he would not shoot if he would turn him loose, the sheriff thinking Hardwick would drop the fight left him and turned to ask Lawson to say no more, Hardwick followed up and like a flash drew his pistol, reached around Street's body and fired, his aim catching the Marshal in the left side three inches below the heart. The bullet passed through his body and dropped from his clothing on the floor as he staggered and fell. He was unconscious until death which occurred in about an hour afterwards. After Hardwick fired Street turned on him and wrenched the smoking weapon from his hand but not before he had again cocked it and pulled the trigger, the hammer falling on Street's left first finger, tearing out its hold as the struggle for the weapon continued. While this encounter was going on Jas. Lawson had secured his brother's pistol and was dispossessed of it only by wrenching it from his hand by friends who were assisting to stop the fight; as his hold was loosened the rubber handle was broken to pieces and left in his grip, Street, in the meantime, overpowering Hardwick and dispossessing him of his gun took him to jail while Lawson turned his attention to his dying brother. We have, since the killing, been told that there has been bad blood between

these officers since the city election at which time they were both candidates for Marshal.

Not since the founding of our city has there been such sorrow cast over its inhabitants. Hardwick's aged mother, when she heard of the terrible affair, fell on her knees and asked God to spare the life of the wounded Marshal and to forgive the wild madness of her son. Her heart is broken, while the poor wife of the dead officer has sorrow greater than she seems able to bear. Two children are left, one a baby and the other five years old, also an aged mother and other relatives whose burden of grief is heavy enough.

The funeral took place from the first Baptist church Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock, at which time every business house in town closed doors until 5, when the ceremonies at the cemetery had ended. The largest funeral procession ever assembled in Tucumcari followed the remains to the cemetery. Service at the church was conducted by Rev. Reece, and funeral director M. H. Koch was assisted by Odd Fellows who marched from the residence to the church and acted as pall bearers. The deceased was a member of Tecumseh Lodge No. 24, I. O. O. F., Tecumseh, Okla.

The people sympathize most sincerely with both these bereaved families.

### RESOLUTION.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tucumcari, held Dec. 28, 1906, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, John M. Lawson, Town Marshal of Tucumcari, was killed on the 26th day of December, 1906, while in the discharge of his duty as Marshal of this town and:

Whereas, By his death the town of Tucumcari has lost a law abiding citizen and an efficient officer;

Be It Resolved by the board of trustees of the town of Tucumcari that we sincerely deplore his unfortunate death and most earnestly condemn the lawless act by which it was caused;

And Be It Further Resolved that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and relatives of the deceased;

And it is ordered that a copy of these resolutions be spread at large upon the town records and that a copy be furnished the family of the deceased.

JOHN PACK, Chairman,  
H. H. HARGIS, Trustee,  
S. H. NEAFUS, "  
F. L. GUTIERREZ, "

ROBERT S. COULTER, Clerk.

## FARMING CAN BE MADE A LEADING INDUSTRY

F. M. Hughes of Roy, N. M., Tells of His Experience in Farming in New Mexico Without Irrigation

F. M. Hughes, a well known resident of Roy, N. M., is in the city today on personal business. He has a large number of friends in this city. Mr. Hughes came to New Mexico about seven years ago and has been engaged in in merchandising, stock raising and farming ever since and has given considerable observation to farming without irrigation. He expresses his earnest belief in the future success of good farming in the semi-arid lands not under irrigation. Mr. Hughes said, when interviewed by a representative of The Optic this morning: "I have been farming now myself for about five years and succeeded well in raising good crops of corn, cane, milo maize, kaffir corn, sorghum and all kinds of vegetables and find from my own actual experience that by good cultivation and such attention to the seasons, time of planting and methods of farming as are found among the farmers of the agricultural states, that in the region about Clayton, Roy and Springer that farmers may do very well in the cultivation of lands. I have raised water melons, cabbage, pumpkins and other vegetables in abundance. Frank Carpenter has been farming for a number of years past. He lives about fifteen miles from Roy, and has succeeded admirably in the cultivation of his lands. While I have not been at his place, I am reliably informed Jim Johnson in Quay county has succeeded splendidly for the past five years. You ask if I believe that farming on our semi-arid lands in New Mexico for periods of five years can be made successful and I answer without any hesitation that if good seed is selected, the seasons are studied so as to learn the proper times to plant and if the ground is properly prepared and planting well done, that farming in New Mexico can be successfully carried on, and I say this, judging by my own observation and experience. The trouble has been in the past that nobody believed in farming. Everyone seemed to think the only method of cultivation to be by irrigation and the only way to make a living by the cultivation of such lands or by stock raising. For the last four or five years people have been studying more than ever before how to farm and to a small extent have

been experimenting on the dry lands, and in many instances have been successful. What we want now is for the people to study how to farm, secure the very best seed and plant well. Yes, I believe that farming can be made a good business in this country. The people should take more interest in this subject and agitate it and get in a good class of farmers. One thing, the merchants of the country should give more encouragement to the producers than has been done heretofore. Instead of discouraging production and discriminating against home produce in favor of stuff that is shipped in the merchant, should encourage the home farmer and assist him. In the past merchants have been very negligent in his matter but they are now beginning to see that, as business men, it is not only to their interest but also their duty to lend a helping hand to those that are trying to build up New Mexico.

"Wherever it is possible merchants should buy home raised produce.

"Build up a home market for home raised produce, for our butter and eggs, our fruits and hay and grain and men will be encouraged to boom. Ten years will work great changes. The seed of home farming is planted and if agriculture is encouraged all northern New Mexico will become a farming country."—Las Vegas Optic.

The News and its entire force wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

M. B. Shaff, J. W. Shafer and John Mincher, all of Revuelto, were in town yesterday and appreciated callers at the News office. Mincher has been here only a short time and has settled near his friends at Revuelto.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Grubbs returned Monday from a several weeks visit to Santa Rosalia, Mexico Hot Springs, where Harry went for the purpose of taking the baths. They are both highly pleased with the results of the springs and recommend them highly.

T. A. Wayne has purchased the Legal Tender property, embracing the Legal Tender Saloon and the K. C. Saloon and the intervening building and the water works system from S. C. Pandolfo. The consideration was \$7,000.00. This is a splendid property and the best location of the city. Mr. Wayne intends to erect a good building on the property later on.